



# UNECE Weekly

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## LAUNCH OF THE DECADE OF ACTION FOR ROAD SAFETY IN THE UNECE REGION 27-29 APRIL, BELGRADE



Hosted by  
The Ministry of the Interior, Road Traffic Directorate of Serbia  
The Ministry of Infrastructure of the Republic of Serbia  
The Road Traffic Safety Agency of Serbia



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

UNECE is organizing a conference to officially launch the Decade of Action (2011-2020) for Road Safety in the UNECE region, on 27-29 April in Belgrade

"Improving road safety is vital for society and a top priority of the United Nations. UNECE attaches great weight to this effort and has ambitious plans for a series of road safety activities. We need to educate the public, raise awareness, induce action and create a dynamic if we want to see effective responses," said Jan Kubis, UNECE Executive Secretary, at the opening of the conference.

Ivica Dacic, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior of Serbia, said: "The government of Serbia will not relent in its pursuit to enforce road safety traffic laws and penalize those who choose to put the lives of others at risk. The Ministries of the interior, infrastructure, education and road traffic safety are coordinating efforts to continue to enhance road safety in our country."

Ministers from Belarus, Greece, the Russian Federation and Serbia addressed participants at the opening. The conference, attended by more than 100 participants from the public and private sectors, International and Regional Organizations, NGOs, and academics, is hosted by the Ministries of the Interior and of Infrastructure of Serbia, and Serbia's Road Traffic Safety Agency.

Delegations from the Ministries of Transport, Public Works, Interior, Health and Education from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Denmark, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Poland, Romania, the

Russian Federation, Serbia, Sweden and Turkey are participating. The European Commission also attends. The Heads of participating Government delegations declared their country commitments for action to improving road safety, as well as their national strategies and road safety casualty reduction targets for the Decade (2011-2020).

During these three days, the debates will address prevention measures, and participants will learn about comprehensive national programmes and policies that are implemented or planned, and about the social, economic development and health impacts associated with road traffic safety.

The Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety, elaborated by the United Nations regional commissions in cooperation with other partners in the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration, will be at the core of the discussions. It is composed of five pillars:

- road safety management;
- safer roads and mobility;
- safer vehicles;
- safer road users;
- post crash response.

The film prepared by UNECE, with the participation of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, to highlight road safety challenges and initiatives, was presented at the opening of the conference and welcomed by participants. □

To watch the film, visit UNECE's YouTube channel at: [http://www.youtube.com/user/UNECE#p/u/4/X\\_nnquRyml](http://www.youtube.com/user/UNECE#p/u/4/X_nnquRyml) 

For more information, please visit: [http://www.unece.org/trans/roadsafe/conf\\_belgrade.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/roadsafe/conf_belgrade.html).

## UNECE TO OPEN AN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE ON PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN GENEVA

On 19 April, the third session of the Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships recommended the establishment of a UNECE International Centre of Excellence on Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Geneva.

The governments of the Netherlands, the Philippines, Qatar, Romania, the Russian Federation and Saudi Arabia committed resources to the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence and confirmed their interest in setting up sectoral specialist centres in their country.

The Centre of Excellence will consist of a hub, established within the UNECE in Geneva, and affiliated PPP specialist centres (dedicated to one sector, such as, roads, water, health, food security, prisons, sustainable development, education, etc.) hosted by various countries.

Dr Enrique T. Ona, Minister of Health of the Philippines, declared: "my Government fully supports the creation of the UNECE International Centre of Excellence in Geneva, and is fully committed to the establishment of the international PPP specialist centre in health in Manila. Our objective is to increase our use of the PPP model in order to materially improve the health care facilities throughout the country. We are also aiming at developing a strategy on the promotion of PPPs in the Philippines, and at becoming a global repository of best practices in health care."



Not an official record - For information only

Mr. Loay bin Ahmad Sa'ad Al-Musallam, Chief Executive Officer of the National Water Company of Saudi Arabia, declared that Saudi Arabia will not only support the creation of the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence, but will also host the international specialist centre on water supply and waste water. By doing so, Saudi Arabia will also develop best practices in water supply and waste water to be used as a vehicle to increase the use of PPP approaches in the sector in Saudi Arabia. Mr. Al-Musallam said that "the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence could be an excellent platform to promote best practices and to provide countries with know-how and knowledge to ensure the successful implementation of PPP programmes".

Mr. Alexander Bazhenov, Director of the PPP Centre of Vnesheconombank, which will provide significant financial resources to the International PPP Centre of Excellence in Geneva, said: "Vnesheconombank believes that the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence will promote mutual enrichment in PPP development to the benefit of all countries".

Mr. Ioan Bala, Director General of the National Administration of Penitentiaries of Romania, declared that Romania supports the creation of the UNECE PPP Centre of

Excellence, and that it has already identified the premises to house a PPP specialist centre on prison services in Romania.

Mr. Saad Ahmed Al Misnad, Advisor to the President of the Public Works Authority of the State of Qatar, said that the State of Qatar was very much interested in hosting a PPP specialist centre on a sector yet to be determined. He declared that Qatar sees "clear benefits in this initiative that will contribute to the successful implementation of PPPs internationally".

The Dutch delegate informed the meeting that the government of the Netherlands was interested to host the PPP specialist centre on water management to operate within the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence.

Hosting countries have agreed to provide financial and in-kind resources to the International PPP Centre of Excellence in Geneva for a number of years in order to deliver the services that are being demanded by a growing number of countries in the UNECE region and beyond. Over the coming weeks and months, the secretariat is expected to conclude memorandums of understanding with hosting countries for a period of time which varies from three to five years. □

**For further information, please visit:**  
<http://live.unece.org/ceci/documents/2011/ppp/session3tosppp11.html>

**Visit the session's photo gallery on:**  
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## **UNECE SIGNS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE COMMISSION OF THE CUSTOMS UNION OF BELARUS, KAZAKHSTAN, AND RUSSIA**

Ján Kubiš, UNECE Executive Secretary, and Serguei Glazyev, Executive Secretary of the Commission of the Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Russia, signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretariat of the Commission of the Customs Union and UNECE on 7 April 2011. They also discussed the elements of a future cooperation programme, which is expected to complement the MoU.

The MoU stipulates that parties will in particular:

- Develop trade facilitation measures, notably, in the implementation of the Single Window concept for export and import clearance
- Organize joint activities and research contributing to the further harmonization of trade information flows, data exchange and electronic documents with a view to their alignment to international standards
- Study possibilities for harmonizing Customs and other border control procedures on the basis of the Harmonization Convention, 1982
- Develop joint recommendations on the facilitation of Customs transit by rail and road
- Contribute to the harmonization of energy-related trade, transit and security regulations and the implementation of international best practices.

The MoU was signed moments before the opening of the Conference "The Single Window, Data Exchange, Interagency and Public-Private Cooperation for Trade

Facilitation", which took place in Moscow, on 7-8 April 2011. The conference was organized by UNECE, the Commission of the Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia and the Interparliamentary Assembly of EurAsEC.

The conference brought together decision-makers and experts from the public and private sectors of the five EurAsEC Member States, UNECE, the European Commission, the World Customs Organization (WCO), and several European countries. Participants called for concrete projects on interagency cooperation, data harmonization and alignment to international standards.

The Commission of the Customs Union may concentrate on building a joint domain of trade information exchange, which will link the work on national data processing and Single Window systems. As in the European Union, this data exchange can be based on the established international (UNECE and WCO) standards, thus creating a broad pan-European platform for fast data exchange to facilitate international trade. □



**For more information, please visit:**  
[http://www.unece.org/trade/workshop/2011\\_Moscow/welcome.html](http://www.unece.org/trade/workshop/2011_Moscow/welcome.html)

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